



## ARP ESSER Q & A Session

June 8, 2021

Montana Office of Public Instruction



# Q & A Session Purpose

- The OPI will host weekly Q & A Sessions during the month of June to address questions related to ARP ESSER district plans and budgets.
- The State ARP ESSER Plan includes a requirement that LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds must publish on their website a **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** by June 24, 2021 and develop and submit to the OPI a **District ARP ESSER Plan** by August 24, 2021. Thus, the OPI has developed these sessions and a FAQ document to provide LEAs information about the **two** required district plans.
  - Part 1: The OPI will answer questions that were received by the close of business each Friday.
  - Part 2: We will take live questions to be answered during the session.
  - Please use the chat feature to ask clarifications about the responses we are providing or to raise additional questions.

# Q & A Details

- The requirements in section 2001(i) of the ARP Act relating to the ARP ESSER funds are published in the Federal Register and also outlined by the Department in the ESSER and GEER FAQ document.
- The OPI has developed a FAQ document to provide LEAs information about the grant, including eligibility, and grant requirements.
- An ESSER III guidance document is available on the OPI website, which outlines allowable uses for the grant.
- **Disclaimer:** Similar to the FAQ document issued by the USED on ESSER and GEER, “the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. The information is subject to change as additional information is released by the USED.

# Zoom Meeting Rules

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## **This meeting will be recorded.**

- When speaking, please identify yourself and speak clearly.
- You may be asked to repeat your comments or questions if there is a delay or issue with the audio.

# OPI and Attendee Introductions



## WELCOME!



# OPI Staff

- Jeff Kirksey, ESSER Program Manager
- Mindi Askelson, Program Analyst
- Tracy Moseman, Chief Program Officer
- Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer
- David Williams, Chief Financial Officer
- Chris Averill, Communications Director
- Jay Phillips, Senior Manager of Centralized Services
- Julie Murgel, Senior Manager of School Improvement and Innovation



# Key Dates

- **June 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2021.** The OPI will host weekly virtual **Q & A Sessions** during the month of June to address questions related to ARP ESSER district plans and budgets.
- **June 15, 2021.** Education Advocates Monthly Partnership Meeting
- **June 18, 2021.** Final day to submit cash requests for June payment for all Federal programs, including ESSER.
- **June 24-25, 2021.** The virtual **Montana Education Summit (MTEdx-21)** to support districts with educational planning opportunities.
- **July 1, 2021.** The **District ARP ESSER Plan** template will open through the Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule (TEAMS) on this date (and close on August 24th in TEAMS).



# Key Dates

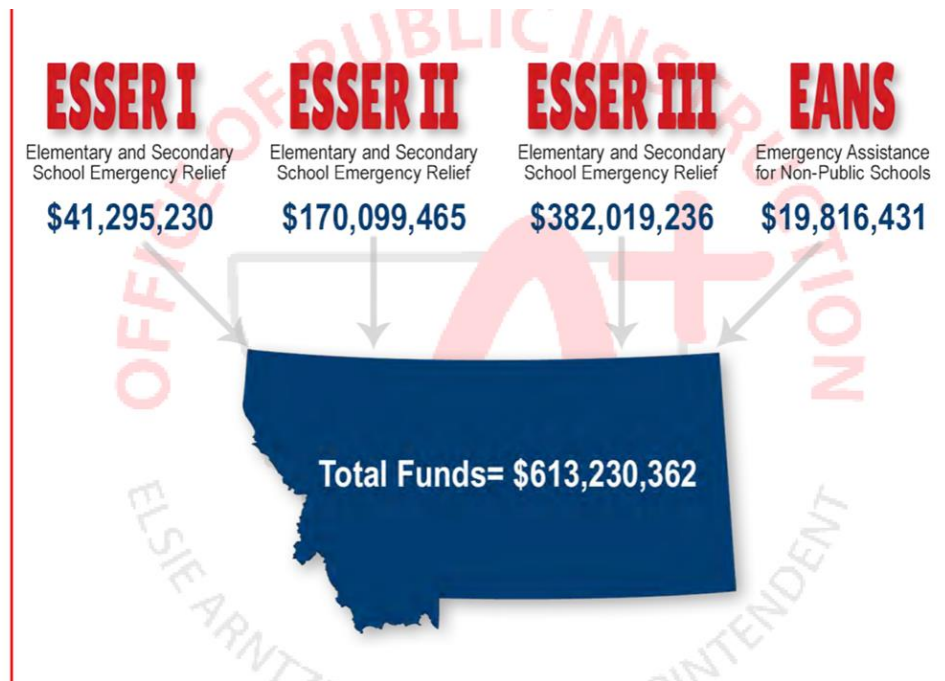
- **July 13, 20, & 27, 2021.** The OPI will host three **ARP ESSER Webinars** during the month of July to assist districts in developing and submitting District ARP ESSER Plans.
- **August 3-5, 2021.** The OPI will host the **Regional Summit** for all schools and districts in Comprehensive Status. There will be designated times for school leadership teams to meet, plan, and coordinate programming and funding from Title I, ESSER II, ESSER III, Impact Aid, and School Improvement Support.
- **August 24, 2021.** Districts must submit an ARP ESSER Plan to the OPI through the Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule (TEAMS). The **District ARP ESSER Plan** template will open July 1st and close on August 24th in TEAMS.
- **September 1, 2021.** Due date to complete and submit ESSER II and ESSER III applications in the E-grants system.



# ESSER Summary

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER):

- 3 Rounds of ESSER funds have been authorized by Congress in response to COVID-19 pandemic.



# ESSER and GEER Funding

The three **ESSER** funding streams referred to as ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III that were allocated to Montana are:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) March, 2020 \$41,295,230
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) December, 2020 \$170,099,465
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) March, 2021 \$382,019,236

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief (**GEER**) Fund was awarded to the Governor to provide LEAs, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education-related entities with emergency support as a result of the pandemic. In Montana, no GEER funds were awarded to LEAs.



# Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)

- In ESSER I, public schools had to go through the equitable share process used in federal Title I funding to determine how much of the funding should go to non-public schools for the benefit of low-income children at these schools.
- For ESSER II and ESSER III, the equitable share process was discontinued.
- In its place, Congress authorized Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools.
- CRRSA allocated \$12.8M to Montana, and ARPA added \$12.1M.
- For this program, the OPI has set up a system whereby non-public schools can apply to the OPI directly for these funds. The allowable uses for the funds are similar to public schools.
- In Montana home school children are considered to be part of the non-public school population.

# Key Topics

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- ESSER III Requirements
- Allowable Uses of ESSER III Funds
- Construction and Capital Requests
- Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Requirements
- District ARP ESSER Plan Requirements

# ESSER III Requirements

**What is the biggest difference between ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III funds?**

**Answer:** ESSER III contains two planning requirements, a 20% set-aside for funding to be expended for lost instructional time type activities and has the new Maintenance of Equity provisions.

# ESSER III Requirements

**Must the LEA submit a grant application to the OPI through the E-grant Management System to receive the ARP ESSER III funds?**

**Answer:** Yes, the LEA must submit the grant application to OPI by September 1, 2021. Each LEA must also submit, by August 24, 2021, the District ARP ESSER Plan to the OPI for approval. As a reminder, the plan and budget are separate.

# ESSER III Requirements

**Will LEAs and schools be monitored? Will there be a data collection?**

**Answer:** The OPI will monitor district implementation of ESSER III funds based on standard risk assessment procedures. The OPI anticipates a data collection due to the USED regarding state and local ESSER III expenditures.

# ESSER III Requirements

**Will there be special reporting requirements for ARP ESSER III grants?**

**Answer:** The USED has not yet released the reporting requirement. However, LEAs should expect reporting on use of funds from USED, the OPI, or both.



# Allowable Use of Funds

**Where can LEAs find information about Allowable Uses for ESSER III?**

**Answer:** Please reference the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding (ESSER III) guidance document located on the OPI webpage and the ESSER and GEER FAQ produced by the USED. The ESSER and GEER Use Funds FAQ developed by the Department provides an overview of how the funds can be used. It emphasizes that the ESSER resources are available for a wide range of activities to address diverse needs arising from an exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to emerge strong post pandemic.

Reminder: As is the case with all activities charged to ESSER, costs must be reasonable and necessary to meet the overall purpose of the program, which is “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19. (See 2 CFR § § 200.403-200.404.)

# Allowable Use of Funds

**Are the ARP ESSER III funds required to be used for specific uses?**

**Answer:** Yes, LEAs must expend a minimum of 20% of their grant funds on:

- Evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, extended day comprehensive after-school programs, or extended school year programs; and
- Ensure interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address disproportionate impact of coronavirus on student populations as defined in ESEA, Title I, Part A.

# Allowable Use of Funds

**How do you determine if an activity is an allowable use of funds?**

**Answer:** Generally, in determining whether an activity is an allowable use of funds, a State or LEA must determine:

- Is the use of funds intended to **prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students?
- Does the use of funds fall under one of the **authorized uses of ESSER funds**?
- Is the **use of funds permissible under** the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200)? In particular, **is it necessary and reasonable** for the performance of the ESSER or GEER award?

# Allowable Use of Funds

**Are there recommended uses of ESSER III funds that will assist LEAs to address the impact of the COVID pandemic and disruptions leading to lost instructional time?**

**Answer:** The LEA should use their local data, conduct a gap analysis, and comprehensive needs assessment process to determine the best uses of funds for their students and staff.

# Allowable Use of Funds

**Can an LEA just use the 2/3 of ARP-ESSER III funds that have been released by the USED and not apply for the 1/3 remaining and not complete the Safely Re-opening plan and District ARP ESSER plan?**

**Answer:** No, the requirements for ARP ESSER III funds require the LEA to provide both of those plans. Failure to do so could result in the return of the funds by the LEA.

# Allowable Use of Funds

**Can an LEA leave the 20% on the table and just use 80% of our allocation instead?**

**Answer:** No. Twenty percent (20%) of an LEAs total expenditures must be expended for evidence-based activities to address loss of instructional time or the LEA will be noncompliant.

# Allowable Use of Funds

**Are there strings attached to the funds?**

**Answer:** Yes, including Safe Return to In-Person Plan to be updated every six months, the LEA plan to be updated every six months, including data collection and monitoring of the use of funds. In addition, there is a 20% set aside with specific uses.

# Allowable Use of Funds

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**Can districts innovate on the use of funds?**

**Answer:** Yes, and it is strongly encouraged that districts use these unprecedented funding allocations to innovate and implement the improvements that have been aspirations for your students.



# Allowable Use of Funds

**Are agencies that provide out of school time or other general support to LEAs able to apply for ESSER III funds?**

**Answer:** No, organizations other than LEAs are not eligible for the formula ESSER III funding.

Organizations who can provide eligible services to LEAs would reach out to those LEAs to identify if their services meet the LEA's identified needs.

# Construction and Capital Costs

**What is the guidance on construction costs?**

**Answer:** The ESSER and GEER FAQ addresses uses of ESSER and GEER funding for construction. (See section B-6 & B-7).

# Construction and Capital Costs

## Is Construction an allowable use of ESSER Funds?

**Answer:** Construction is authorized under Title VII of the ESEA (Impact Aid) and therefore is an allowable use of GEER and ESSER funds under sections 18002(c)(3) and 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act, sections 312(c)(3) and 313(d)(1) of the CRRSA Act and section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

- The broad Impact Aid definition of “construction” includes new construction as well as remodeling, alterations, renovations, and repairs under which many activities related to COVID-19 would likely fall.
- However, the Department discourages LEAs from using ESSER and GEER funds for new construction. This use of funds may limit an LEA’s ability to support other essential needs or initiatives. Remodeling, renovation, and new construction are often time-consuming, which may not be workable under the shorter timelines associated with ESSER and GEER funds. These types of activities are also subject to several additional Federal requirements, as detailed below.

# Construction and Capital Costs

## What is the federal definition for construction?

**Answer:** The Impact Aid program statute defines “construction” as “(A) the preparation of drawings and specifications for school facilities; (B) erecting, building, acquiring, altering, remodeling, repairing, or extending school facilities; (C) inspecting and supervising the construction of school facilities; and (D) debt service for such activities.”

- As is the case with all construction contracts using laborers and mechanics financed by Federal education funds, an LEA that uses ESSER or GEER funds for minor remodeling, renovation, repair, or construction contracts over \$2,000 must meet all Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements.

# Construction and Capital Costs

## **Who determines if a construction project is an allowable use of funds?**

**Answer:** While construction is generally allowable, it is the responsibility of a Governor, SEA, LEA, or other subgrantee to assure that individual costs:

- 1) comply with the Cost Principles in 2 CFR Part 200, subpart E (e.g., the cost must be “necessary and reasonable” (2 CFR § § 200.403-200.404));
- 2) meet the overall purpose of the CARES Act, CRRSA Act, or ARP Act programs, which is “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19; and
- 3) are consistent with the proper and efficient administration of those programs.

Note: Under these general principles, any construction activities, including renovations or remodeling, that are necessary for an LEA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 could be permissible, though the burden remains on grantees and subgrantees to maintain the appropriate documentation that supports the expenditure.

# Construction and Capital Costs

**How does an LEA request preapproval of Construction costs from the OPI?**

**Answer:** The ESSER II and ESSER III e-grants module were designed to allow construction projects to be entered for preapproval.

The application submitted by the LEA in e-grants requires sufficient detail that would allow the OPI to pre-approve projects. Should assurances be required to specific federal construction guidelines identified in the USED May 26, 2021 FAQ, the LEA will be contacted by Jeffrey Kirksey.

# Construction and Capital Costs

**What are the federal requirements for approved Construction projects?**

**Answer:** Approved construction projects (i.e., remodeling, renovation, and new construction) must comply with applicable Uniform Guidance requirements, Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, and all of the Department's applicable regulations regarding construction at 34 CFR § § 76.600 and 75.600-75.618. Some of the relevant part 75 requirements that must be considered before a new construction project is initiated include:

1) Has the grantee completed an environmental impact assessment before initiating the construction and fully considered any potential environmental ramifications before proceeding with the project (34 CFR § 75.601);

# Construction and Capital Costs

**What are the federal requirements for approved Construction projects?**

**Continued Answer:**

- 2) Has the grantee considered the probable effects of proposed construction on any district, site, building, or structure that is included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (34 CFR § 75.602)
- 3) Does the grantee have the title or other interest in the site, including the right of access, that is sufficient to ensure that the grantee will have use and possession of the facility for 50 years or the useful life of the facility, whichever is longer (34 CFR § 75.603);
- 4) Can the grantee begin the approved construction in a reasonable time period and have the final plans been approved before the construction is advertised or placed on the market for bidding (34CFR § 75.605);



# Construction and Capital Costs

**What are the federal requirements for approved Construction projects?**

**Continued Answer:**

- 5) Can a grantee complete the project in a reasonable time and consistent with the approved plans and specifications (34 CFR § 75.606)
- 6) Is the construction functional, economical, and not elaborate in design or extravagant in the use of materials as compared to other facilities in the State or other applicable geographic area (34 CFR § 75.607);
- 7) Do the grantee's plans and designs for the facilities comply with applicable Federal, State and local health and safety standards, as well as Federal requirements regarding access by persons with disabilities. (34 CFR § § 75.609 and 75.610); and
- 8) Does the grantee have sufficient operational funds to operate and maintain the facility once the construction is complete, and will the grantee operate and maintain the facility per all applicable Federal, State, and local requirements (34 CFR § § 75.614 and 75.615).

# Construction and Capital Costs

**What are the federal requirements for approved Construction projects?**

**Continued Answer:**

Finally, if ESSER and GEER funds are used for construction, grantees and subgrantees should also be aware that real property and equipment acquired or improved under a Federal award must be appropriately insured, and grantees must consult with the Department on disposition instructions if the property or equipment is no longer needed. See, e.g., 2 CFR § § 200.310-200.313.

# Construction and Capital Costs

**Can ARP-ESSER Funds be used for new construction?**

**Answer:** Yes, provided that pre-approval and all the federal guidelines are met in the project and that the new construction meets the primary purposes of the ESSER funding.

# Construction and Capital Costs

**Can ARP-ESSER Funds be used for renovations?**

**Answer:** Yes, provided that the renovations meet the primary purposes of the ESSER funding (i.e., prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19.)

# Construction and Capital Costs

**Can the deferred maintenance of a district be paid for with the ESSER funds?**

**Answer:** No, an LEA may only use ESSER funds for any allowable expenditure incurred on or after March 13, 2020

# Construction and Capital Costs

**Can funds be used to purchase trailers or modular buildings?**

**Answer:** Yes, provided that the renovations meet the primary purposes of the ESSER funding (i.e., prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19.)

Note: The USED FAQ cautions districts when purchasing modular to ensure the civil rights of all children are met.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

## What is required in the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?

**Answer:** The LEA's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies on each of the CDC's safety recommendations.

The plan must also describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**Is it a requirement for a district to adopt CDC guidance as part of the development of the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?**

**Answer:** No, the Interim Final Rule (IFR) clarifies that: “the requirement does not mandate that an LEA adopt the CDC guidance, but only requires that the LEA describe in its plan the extent to which it has adopted the key prevention and mitigation strategies identified in the guidance.”





# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**Is a Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan required of all LEAs, even those who have already returned to in-person instruction.**

**Answer:** Yes, LEAs are required to develop a plan or update an existing plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, consistent with statutory requirements of the ARP Act and the IFR. If an LEA has already returned students to 100 percent full-time-in-person instruction, its plan should focus on its current and future activities to keep students and staff safe and ensure continuity of services.

Note, that LEAs may utilize previously developed plans (the Governor's plan from Spring of 2020, or the template provided by MT-PEC) that address the return to in person instruction if the plan was approved by the local school board and allowed for public comment at the board meeting.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**Continued:** Is a Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan required of all LEAs, even those who have already returned to in-person instruction.

## Answer:

The OPI also recommends that LEAs build on existing plans. LEAs likely have plans that address many of the elements of the federal requirements. This may include health and safety plans developed in collaboration with local departments of health. LEAs may have existing remote learning plans, reopening plans submitted to the Governor in the Spring of 2020, continuous improvement plans, or other strategic plans that encompass aspects of these requirements. Districts should consider using those previously developed plans to meet relevant requirements of the federal assurances and add additional elements as necessary to meet the federal expectations.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**How often does the plan need to be revised?**

**Answer:** The plan must be updated no less than every six months, until September 30, 2023, and must include stakeholder input and public comment when revisions are necessary. If an LEA already has a plan in place that doesn't meet the new requirements, it must revise the plan within six months.

If the LEA revises its plan, the revised plan must address each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the CDC at the time of the revision or, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated safety recommendations.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**When and where does the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan need to be developed and made publicly available.**

Answer: ESSER III requires LEAs to submit a plan to return to in-person instruction, gather public comment on that plan, and post it on the district or school's public website within 30 days of receiving ESSER III funds [Sec. 2001(i)]. This will require LEAs to post their return to in-person instruction plans within 30 days of receiving their ESSER III award. In Montana, districts were awarded funds on May 24, 2021 thus the return to in-person instruction and continuity of service plan needs to be posted no later than June 24, 2021.

Each LEA will be required to submit the website address that links directly to the plan to the OPI through the ESSER III-E-grant Application.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**Are there requirements for how the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans are published?**

**Answer:** Yes, all plans must be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated for non-English speakers; and, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

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**What if we do not have a LEA website to upload your Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?**

**Answer:** Email [Jeffrey.Kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirksey@mt.gov) to discuss an alternative method.

# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

- What is the minimum an LEA is required to do to meet the requirements for stakeholder input on the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?
- **Answer:** The LEA must determine if their stakeholder input meets the minimum requirements required in both statute and federal rule. The LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds. Specifically the LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and to the extent present in or served by the LEA tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations) and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English language learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migrant students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

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**Does meaningful consultation require the LEA to include all of the subgroups listed by the USED?**

**Answer:** Yes, to the fullest extent practicable.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**What are recommended best practices for LEAs to meet the stakeholder input requirement?**

**Answer:** Best practices might include a community-wide public notice and comment process with an optional survey to gather input from the various required stakeholder groups. School board meetings, small group meetings or public forums would also supplement the process. Regardless of the process followed, the LEA must document that all the applicable stakeholder groups were included in the process and that meaningful consultation occurred. Documentation of all plans and public comment need to be saved locally as OPI may request the documents as part of compliance monitoring of ESSER grantees.

- Note: Public comment should be sought in a manner that is consistent with your existing local procedures.



# Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

**Does the OPI need to approve the Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?**

**Answer:** When LEAs submit the E-grant application to the OPI for ESSER III funding, it will include an assurance that the LEA will have a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan posted on its website by June 24, 2021. The assurance also requires LEAs to periodically review the plan with its stakeholders.

In addition to the requirement that LEAs publicly post the continuity of service plans, the OPI will collect the website addresses for those plans through the E-grants application and post them to the OPI website.

# District ARP ESSER Plan

## What is required in the District ARP ESSER (ESSER III) Plan?

**Answer:** The requirements for the district ARP ESSER (ESSER III) plans, must include at a minimum:

- The extent to which and how funds will be used by the District to implement prevention and mitigation strategies,
- How the District will use the mandatory 20% set-aside for to address the academic impact of “lost instructional time” through the implementation of evidence-based interventions,
- How the District will use the remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with statutory requirements,

# District ARP ESSER Plan

## **Continued:** What is required in the District ARP ESSER (ESSER III) Plan?

- How the District will ensure that the ARP ESSER funded interventions, including but not limited to the 20% set-aside, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted, and
- Consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders when developing the plan.
- The LEA ARP ESSER plan should be clear, in a uniform format, and available to all, which may require written or oral translations for non-English speakers or providing the document in an accessible format for individuals with disabilities, and
- It should also be available on the LEA website.

# District ARP ESSER Plan

**Will the District ARP ESSER Plan be a PDF document emailed to OPI?**

- **Answer:** No. LEAs must submit an ARP ESSER Plan to the OPI through the Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule (TEAMS). The **District ARP ESSER Plan** template will open July 1st and close on August 24<sup>th</sup> in TEAMS.
- The OPI will continue to release information on the OPI [website](#) under the ESSER Info page, so that LEAs can begin work in anticipation of the opening of the template in TEAMS.

# District ARP ESSER Plan

**Can an LEA submit a base ARP ESSER plan and amend it later as it continues to work through the best approach and gather community input?**

**Answer:** No. In order to meet the required plan timeline, August 24, 2021, the LEA may submit a preliminary plan and update it as needed as it receives more stakeholder input.



# District ARP ESSER Plan

**Will more guidance be provided from the OPI on developing the District ARP ESSER Plan?**

**Answer:** Yes. The OPI has planned three types of support for LEAs.

1. Superintendent Arntzen is hosting the virtual **Montana Education Summit (MTedX-21)** to support districts with educational planning opportunities. The work sessions include: Developing ARP ESSER LEA plans, Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation, Data Usage, Redefining the purpose of K-12 education, and Reimagining State Assessment. The MTEDX-21 session is a two-day event on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required and open at the link below:

<https://hopin.com/events/mtedx-21>

# District ARP ESSER Plan

**Continued:** Will more guidance be provided from the OPI on developing the District ARP ESSER Plan?

**Answer:**

2. The OPI will host weekly **Q & A Sessions** during the month of June to address questions related to ARP ESSER district plans and budgets. The session days will be June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30am. To the extent possible, please submit questions to [jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov) by the close of business each Friday. Submitted questions will be addressed during the session each Tuesday 9:30am. The weekly Q&A sessions will be held through Zoom; the link and dial-in number will be the same every week.



# District ARP ESSER Plan

**Continued:** Will more guidance be provided from the OPI on developing the District ARP ESSER Plan?

**Answer:**

3. The OPI will host three **ARP ESSER Webinars** during the month of July to assist directs in developing and submitting District ARP ESSER Plans. The webinars will be recorded and posted for future viewing on the OPI webpage. The webinars will be on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 10:30am. The ARP ESSER webinars will be held through Zoom; the link and dial-in number will be the same every week.

Note: Additional Q & A sessions, technical assistance and webinars will be conducted as needed.

# Open Questions

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- What questions do you have?
- Do you have any clarifying questions about the responses we are provided?



# Resources

OPI Website-ARP ESSER: **opi.mt.gov**



## 2021 Legislative Priorities

- BASE Aid plus inflation
- Adding special education to BASE Aid plus inflation
- Fund in-state residential treatment for at-risk students
- Transfer the Broadband for Montana Schools program from the Department of Commerce to the Office of Public Instruction

Program 9 (funding to schools) [comparison](#)

Program 6 (state-level activities) [comparison](#)

MEET EXECUTIVE  
STAFF

FIND ESSER  
INFORMATION

## **Federal COVID-19 Waivers**

- Summer Food Service Program: extended through Summer 2021.
- Report Card: still required for available data points
- Assessment: ED has not made a decision on spring standardized assessments. The OPI is pursuing a waiver or determining how local interim data could be used instead
- The OPI continues to advocate an extension of the CRF deadline while encouraging the Governor to allocate additional funds to education.



# Next Steps

- A recording of this session will be available on the OPI webpage.
- FAQs will be updated weekly and posted on the OPI webpage, on the ESSER tab.
- To the extent possible, please submit questions to [jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov) by the close of business each Friday. Submitted questions will be addressed during the upcoming session each Tuesday 9:30am.
- The weekly Q&A sessions will be held through Zoom; the link and dial-in number will be the same every week.

# Thank you!

For questions or additional information please contact Jeff  
Kirksey @ [Jeffrey.Kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirksey@mt.gov)